

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6 have been canceled. New Claims 7-15 are active in the case.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to solid pigment preparations.

Claim Amendments

Original Claims 1-6 have been canceled in favor of new Claims 7, 8 and 12-15. New Claims 9 to 11 are supported by pages 10 (bottom) and 11 of the text. None of the new claims introduce new matter into the case. Entry of the new claims into the record is respectfully requested.

Specification Amendments

The specification has been amended in order to introduce therein appropriate section headings. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Invention

The present invention is directed to a pigment preparation which exhibits advantageous properties including high color strength and good dispersibility in a wide variety of materials. The pigment preparation also exhibits excellent attrition resistance, a minimal tendency to compact or clump, uniform particle size distribution, good pourability, flowability and meterability, and also dustlessness when handled. The preparation of the invention is a combination of 60 to 90 % by wt pigment (A) with two types of surfactants (B) and (C) of which (B) is at least one water-soluble anionic surface-active additive selected from the group consisting of homo- and copolymers of ethylenically unsaturated monocarboxylic acids and/or ethylenically unsaturated dicarboxylic acids with or without

vinyl monomers comprising no acid function, alkoxylation products of these homo- and copolymers and salts of these homo- and copolymers and their alkoxylation products (5 % to 40 % by weight), and (C) is at least one nonionic surface-active additive based on polyethers (0 % to 20 % by weight).

Claim Rejection, 35 USC 102

Claims 1-6 stand rejected based on 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Takahashi et al, U. S. Patent 4,234,466. This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

Although the Takahashi et al patent discloses a pigment preparation which is described as a solid pigment dispersed composition, nevertheless, the composition of the reference is quite different from that of the present invention. As stated at column 2, lines 25-32 of the patent , the composition is prepared by subjecting a liquid composition comprising at least one ethylenically unsaturated compound, at least one resin dissolved or dispersed therein and at least one pigment dispersed therein to suspension or bulk polymerization. An example of this procedure is described, for instance, in Example 1. Here, an acrylic copolymer, prepared from methyl methacrylate, styrene, isobutyl methacrylate, butyl acrylate and methacrylic acid, was dissolved in a liquid mixture of styrene, methyl methacrylate, isobutyl methacrylate, glycidyl methacrylate and butyl acrylate monomers. Titanium white was dispersed in the mixture with a sand grinder, and thereafter, polymerization of the monomers was initiated. After several more steps a solid pigment dispersion was obtained.

It is evident from this discussion that nowhere does the reference teach a pigment preparation as presently claimed in which a pigment is dispersed in a combination of two different types of surfactants which are at least one water-soluble anionic surface-active additive and at least one nonionic surface-active additive based on polyethers. Further, the reference requires a polymerization of reacting monomers in the presence of a resin, which

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process does not happen in the present invention. Accordingly, the present invention in any of its claimed aspects is not anticipated by the patent and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is now believed that the application is in proper condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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